ETHICAL RELIGION.

PROFESSOR ADLER AND HIS SOCIETY. THEIR MORAL TEACHINGS AND BENEVOLENT WORKS -DESCRIPTION OF THE MAN AND OF HIS MAN-NER-A CODE OF ETHICS RESTING ON THE ENLIGHTENED MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF MAN-DISPENSING WITH THE FORMS OF RELIGION, BUT HOLDING ON TO ITS SUBSTANCE-THE SCHOOLS AND THE PRACTICAL CHARITY OF THE SOCIETY.

It is nearly 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning. We enter a handsome hall in Fifth-ave., at the doors of which is a modest tablet announcing that it is the place of meeting of the Society for Ethical Culare. People are pouring into the hall, well-dressed intelligent looking people, who wear Sunday faces as well as Sunday clothes, and might be taken for the congregation of a fashionable up-town church. Aided by numerous usbers they find seats quietly and when seated behave in the subdued manner which custom prescribes for religious assemblies Jewish countenances predominate, but there is a large admixture of the Gentile element. The body of the hall is soon filled, and by elev tro'clock the gatlery is also crowded. On the broad stage stands a little reading desk decked with fresh flowers, and at the side, in front of a large organ, a choir of perhaps twenty persons are partially hidden by a ma roon screen. The choir sing a long concerted piece. You do not catch the words, which seem to be in a foreign language, the music is evidently of a sacred character. While the singing is in progress a gentleman of medium height, clad in a black dress suit, comes in and takes a seat upon the platform. He has a high forehead, full lips, dreamy blue eyes, full beard, rather scanty light brown hair, and a face expressing both intellect and spirituality. This is Profes-Felix Adler, who is modestly announced as the lecturer of the society. He is in reality its organizer, its director, and one might say its priest, if the word priest were admissible in connection with a society which professes no religious faith. When the music is ended he comes forward, and paying no attention to the reading desk, places himself in front of it and begins a discourse which lasts an hour. The language is faultiess, the argument compact and logical, the illustrations well chosen and the theme well devel-

of paper to refer to. His subject is the Ethics of Christianity. He denies that Christian ethics contain the last word of the moral law, and that no higher and bette code is possible than that contained in the Sermon on the Mount. He declares that the ethics of Jesus are faulty in two respects : first, in making doubt, which is the parent of truth, sinful, and faith without intellectual assent meritorious; and second, in holding out a scheme of rewards and punishments in a future life as an incentive to righteousness. "We should do right," he says, "because it is right, and not because we expect our Father in Heaven will reward us." At the close of the discourse the orator gives an account of the doings of the society's charitable association, and appeals for money to carry on the work during the coming year. He draws tears to the eyes of many persons in the andience by his description of the cases of distress relieved by the district nurses employed by the society to visit the poor who are suffering from illness or accidents.

oped and carried systematically forward to the in-

A meeting of those interested in the various benevelent labors of the society is announced, and also a meeting of ladies to sew for the poor. All this sounds very much like what one hears in the churches; but after the choir sings the congregation disperses without prayer or benediction, and then you revert to the theme of the discourse, and realize that there is a wide gulf between this Chickering Hall assembly and all the churches, whether they be Christian, Jewish or even Pagan. The lecture and the after-talk have given you a clew to the belief or unbelief of Professor Adler's followers. They hold that it is possible to establish a code of ethics resting solely on the enlightened moral consciousness of man, without any reference to Divine Providence, revelacion or a future life. They neither deny per affirm the existence of God or a future state, but seek to attain to the beauty of holiness without expecting the aid or approval of a Supreme Being. If you have been a frequent attendant at these meetings you will remember that you have heard no reference to Divine guidance of human affairs, and that when immortality has been spoken of it has been as though it were a pleasing hope so uncertain of realization that the conduct of earthly life should be ordered without refer-

We should pause, however, before calling these Atheists. The Materialists deify physical law, the Pantheists adore the Soul of the Universe, and the Positivists worship their Ideal of Humanity. Do not these worthy followers of Professor Adier in reality pay homage to the Divine Being ueder the name of what they call the Moral Law ? It demands of them, they say, self-abnegation, purity of thought and life, elevation of character and works of actual benevolence toward their fellow beings. While dispensing with the form of religion they seem to be holding on to a good deal of its substance.

The Society for Ethical Culture has grown up around the personality of Felix Adler, and from a small beginning has become one of the largest congregations in the city. It occupied a small hall in the upper part of Broadway for three years, but was obliged to migrate to more spacious quarters last October because the old place would not hold the audiences which assembled every Sunday. Professor Adler is the son of a Hebrew rabbi distinguished for learning and piety, who retired from the ministry recently after presiding for many years over the Jewish synagogue on Fifth-ave. The son was educated in Germany, with a view to fitting him to occupy the father's place, but he imbibed the liberal ideas current at the German universities, and emancipated himself from all allegiance to Hebrew theology. After his return From Europe he was effered his father's position, but declined, and accepted a professorship in Cornell University, which he held for three years. During this time a movement was steadily crystallizing among young Jews of liberal tendencies for the formation of an independent religious society under Professor Adler's leadership, so that when he left Ithaca the field was prepared for the immediate organization of the Society for Ethical Culture. Its first membership was almost entirely Jewish, and was mainly composed of young married people, who

was manly connoced of young married people, who had high dose of life, and wanted their children to have a Sunday-school training in morals, independent of theology. As the society grew, it dies was not provided to the society and the selection of the cology. As the society grew, it does not be leaded to the cology. As the society grew, it does not be leaded to the cology. As the society grew, it does not be leaded to the cology. As the society grew, it does not have a Sunday-school training in morals, independent of the cology. As the society grew, it does not have a Sunday-school training in morals, independent of the cology. The service of the society are gathered in classes at the society and the society and the society and the society and sunday school training in morals. In the lessons given in the history of the cologies of the world, each is regarded as the expression of a great moral idea. Thus, the Hebrer velicion represents the sublimity of the law of duty, Buddhism religious compassion, Christistismity self-ascrifice, and the religion of 2 Grootster as the second of the first twenty days, the mercury folicity of the society and the soci

struction is entirely free. At noon each day a warm lunch is served to the fittle ones, thirty young ladies of the society acting as waitresses. Clothing and shoes are given to such as need them. The ages of the pupils range from two and a half to seven years. At first there was difficulty in persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated but they some persuading parents to send their children because they feared some religious propaganda would be attenuated by the persuading parents to send the attenuated by the persuading parents tempted, but they soon became convinced that no religious theories would be inculcated. Now, the children nearly all come from Irish Catholic or German Protestant families. The influence of the school in the home-life of the parents is found to be

beneficial in many respects. Third-The Industrial School.- This institution designed to supplement the kindergarten work, has just been established by the help of a gift of \$10,000 from Mr. Joseph Seligman. Its purpose is to com bine industrial education with instruction in the ordinary branches of a school course. A primer of Professor Whitaker, giving directions for instructing children in the use of tools, is to be among the first text-books. The method of training pursued will be to educate the brain through the hand. The course is to last from the seventh to the fourteenth year, and the society hope to be able to build a series of instructive workshops on the plan of the Russian Technological School at Moscow, to con time the system with pupils who have passed their

Fourth-District Nursing-The Society employs two well-educated and thoroughly competent women to nurse the sick poor in their homes on the principles of Florence Nightingale. The nurses labor a the poorest districts of the city-in the Mott and Baxter-sts, neighborhoods and along the East River, working under medical direction in connection with the Demilt and New-York Dispensaries. They see that there is proper ventilation and cleanliness in the sick rooms, that healthful food is furnished the patients, and that medical attendance is provided. and they dress wounds and often perform the most mental offices. They are followed on their rounds by relief committees of the Society, which supply bed clothing when necessary and give delicacies and whatever may be needed to facilitate the patients' recovery. About 500 cases were reached ast year by this noble, practical charity.

For an authoritative statement of the principles of the Society for Ethical Culture the writer of this article applied to Professor Adler himself. He tended conclusion. Yet the orator has not a sheet said: "Our motto is diversity in the creed, unanimity in the deed. The vital point with us is to insist on the independence of morality of any reli- United States, etc., etc., etc., gious dogma. While it is commonly held that moral teaching must be based upon some doctrine of Deity or the immortality of the soul, we find in the sovereign law of ethics itself the foundation of the spiritual life."

"How do you get at this sovereign law?" was asked.

"Concerning the main points of morality," Professor Adler replied, " there is bardly any doubt or diversity among mankind. Philosophically, I should found the law of ethics in the manner of Kant, upon the dictates of the Practical Reason. While differences in matters of belief are likely to continne and increase, it seems necessary to place th moral law where it cannot be questioned. The main thing is to apply the law more thoroughly. Men have quarrelled so long concerning the author of the law that the law itself has fallen into abeyance. Our movement means an appeal to conscience It is a cry for larger justice, an exhortation to larger duties. We find in the dignity of submissi to the moral law our consolation in affliction, and in the prospect of a grander and sweeter life on earth, an incentive to strengous endeavor.

"Do you set up no standard whatever of religious

"None whatever, We have among our members ardent Theists, as well as Atheists, Materialists and Agnostics; and in the explanation of ethics we have Utilitarians, Intuitionalists and Kantians. "Would it not be correct to apply the term Al-

troist to all your members ?" "Hardly; because Altruism implies principles which are not fully satisfactory to us. Practically our efforts concentrate in ameliorating the condition of the lower classes, and purifying our own morals. We do not concern ourselves about each

other's religious theories." EXTRAORDINARY WINTERS.

COMPARISON OF THIS YEAR WITH SEASONS IN THE PAST-WEATHER LIKE THIS AT VARIOUS TIMES

SINCE 1776. The weather experienced thus far this Winter is considered phenomenal, and has not often had its parallel, judging from past records, in this part of the country. The Indian Summer, which began early in November, has hardly been interrupted; and, with the exception of two or three cays, the variation indicated by the thermometer has been very regular. Many days have been as pleasant as those of April or September in ordinary years, and not only have fires sometimes been uncomfortable, but many days in December, and even in the present month, persons of leisure have sat at open win-dows on the south side of the house, where the sun shone a greater part of the day, and found it comfortable. The Spring-like mildness has caused the grass in many places to start up, and the Battery Park is still green. Some trees also show signs of budding, and the birds not only sing as in early Spring, but some twitter about nest-building. The lowest point reached by the mercury since the opening of the season, as obtained from the meteorolog ical record of John Gelston, No. 4 Bread-st., was on December 27, when it indicated 13° above zero, or 190 below the freezing point, and the highest point in December was on the 11th, when it indicated 590. There have been only two really Winter days, December 26 and 27, when the temperature at 7 a. m. was 14° and 13° respectively. With the exception of these two days the mercury at sunrise has

not been below 20°.

The lowest temperature indicated at noon on any day this season was 22° on December 26, and the highest at noon since December 1 was December 11, when it was recorded at 60°. The average temperature for the month, taken at 7 a. m., noon, 3 and 6 p. m., was 42931°. In 1871 the average for December was $34^{10}3^{\circ}$; $1872, 32^{17}3^{\circ}$; $1873, 42^{14}3^{\circ}$; $1874, 38^{29}3^{\circ}$; $1875, 37^{26}3^{\circ}$; 1876,293031°; 1877, 442931°; 1878, 371231°. The lowest temperature at noon for this month was on New Year's Day, when the mercury stood at 37°, and the highest was on Wednesnay, when it indicated 460 The average temperature for the seven days was 43170, while for the first seven days in January last

Similar shocks were felt three days afterward at

INVIOLABILITY OF TELEGRAMS.

BILL PREPARED BY THE WESTERN UNION. THE COMPANY ABOUT TO ASK CONGRESS TO DE-CLARE THE SANCITITY OF TELEGRAPHIC DIS-PATCHES-PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE PRO-POSED BILL RESTS-JUDGE COOLEY'S OPINION. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Herewith is a copy of a bill to preserve telegrams from unreasonable search and seizure, and from production in court, etc., in like manner to letters in the mails, which the Western Union Telegraph Company is about to ask to have introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Saulsbury, the chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections; this company having recently had to produce after a controvers and under protest, certain telegrams before that com mittee in obedience to its subpena. We hope it may be found by you to be of sufficient consequence for pub tion, with such comment as may be proper. We think the subject one of the greatest importance and of the widest public interests. The bill will, we are sure, be supported by public sentiment. It has nuple founds tion in law (as seen from the language of Judge Cooley hereinalter quoted) and may be very well considered a laratory of what already exists as a cor tutional right.

The proposed bill will be as follows; A bill for an Act in relation to Telegraphic Communica

lions.

Re if enacted by the Senate and House of Represent tives of the United States of America in Congress asset

bied.

SECTION 1. That all telegraph messages delivered for stransmission to any telegraph company availing tisel of the provisions of fitte 65, of the flexibled Statutes and copies thereof made by such company at the place of destination, or at any intermediate point, shall be defined destination, or at any intermediate point, shall be defined.

the conditions of the same the "right to construct, main tale and operate mess of telegraph through and over

will be apparent, has no interest other than that con mon to very chizen of the United States, in this reand, since the present practice of the courts and legisla-tive committee in requiring the production and discion ure of telegrams under subporns does not work an pardship to it beyond such inconveniences as may involved in compliance with the subjoins. But the pub-lic has the gravest interest in the proposed legislation and it is on behalf of the public that we suspend for the sountry whose business in life requires the use of the telegraph, but who may be exposed at any moment to gross hardship, in the production, in obedience to dragnet or sweeping subjectus, of his business and social elegrams, and this whether the same are of the most deheate and sacred character, and whether they are rei-

analogous to the mails, and telegrams should on every ground be entitled to the same immunity from "unreaonable search and setzure," and from demands for their production in court, as now exists in favor of letters. As to letters, etc., in the muils, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided in ex parte Jackson (96 United States, page 733), as

follows:

Letters and scaled packages in the mail are as fully guarded from examination and inspection, except as to their outward form and weight, as if they were retained by the parties (orwarding them in their own domicales. Far constitutional guarantee of the right of the people to be secure in their papers against unreasonable searches and sciences extends to their papers thus closed except the inspection, and wherever they may be. Whist

It will be noticed that the language of the Sopreme Court is used independently of any statute of the United States which prevents post office officials from opening letters sent through the mail, the principle being based upon the fourth amendment to the Constitution of the United States (in respect to the "right of the people to be seeme in their persons, papers, houses and effects against apply as well to telegraphic messages in the possession of the telegraph company as to mail matter in the posession of a postmaster. That eminent jurist, Judge tions (c. 10, pp. 306-307, note 1), makes use of the fol-

cooley, in his standard work on Constitutional Limitations (c. 10, pp. 306-307, note 1), makes use of the following language on this general subject:

The importance of public confidence in the inviolability of correspondence through the post effice cannot weed be overraited, and the proposition to permit letters to be opened at the discretion of a ministerial efficer would excite petieral indignation. In Maine it has been decided that a 'clegraph' operator may be compelled to disclose the contents of a mossage sent by him for another party, and that no rule of public policy would for hid. (State vs. Lichfield, Ss. Me., 267.) The case is treated as if no other considerations were involved than those which arise in the certinary case of a vountary disclosure by one private person to another without measure by one private person to another without measure by one private person to another without measure. Such, however, is not the nature of the communication made to the operator of the telegraph. That instrument is used as a means of correspondence, and as a valuable, and in many cases at indispensable, substitute for the postal facilities; and the communication is made, not because the party desires to put the operator in possession of facts, but because transmission without it is impossible. It is not veluntary in any other sense than this—that the party makes it rather than deprive himself of the benefits of this great invention and improvement. The reasons of a public nature for maintaining the secrecy of feligraphic communication are the same with those which protect correspondence by mail, and though the operator is not a public efficer that circumstance appears to us immaterial. He fulfills an important public fenderion, and the propriety of his prewith those which protect correspondence by man, and though the operator is not a public officer that circumstance appears to us immaterial. He fulfils an important public function, and the propriety of his preserving invisible secrecy in regard to communications is so obvious that it is common to provide statutory penalties for disclosures. If on grounds of public policy the operator should not voluntarily disclose, why do not the same considerations forbid the courts compelling him to do so! Or if it be proper to make him tentify to the correspondence by telegraph, what good reason can be given why the postmaster should not be made subject to the process of subpona for a like purpose, and compelled to bring the correspondence which passes through his hands into court, and open it for the burpose of evidence of evidence.

sees through his hands into court, and open it for the roose of evidence! we must maintain the opinion, notwithstanding the cision of so contact a tribunal, that the public are cautified to a man's private correspondence, bether obtainable by seizing it in the mains by compelling the operator of the telegraph testify to it, or by requiring his servants take from his desits his private letters and armais and bring them into court on subposua ducer cum, and such compulsory process to obtain to it and be nothing short of a most arbitrary and unjustible serzare of private papers—such an "aurensonable zure" as Is directly condemned by the Constitution.

OF HIS CLASS REGARD. THE MAINE FRAUD-THE BRUTAL THAN THE SOUTHERN.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: The events which have lately taken

place in Maine are of very peculiar interest to that rapidly disappearing class of our fellow-citizens who are known as Southern Republicans. The Democratic ole of stealing a State by fraud or violence has so ofter been carried into effect in the reconstructed section that they look moon such a result with peculiar complacency Lake dying, they count it nothing at all, when one gets In this case, however, they cannot help regarding it

with an especial feeling of resignation. When they were the vicilms they were not a little surprised at the coness with which such transactions were regarded by their brethren of the North, who did not exactly say that they were giad of it, but petted and feted the men who accomplished the thefr, and regarded only with sort of contemptuous pity the representations of wrong and outrage which were made by the sufferers. Compared with the ontrage upon free government and

liberty which was perpetrated in South Caro ins, in Louisiana, in Mississippi-in every Southern tralized by fraud and blood and terror-what is this unlawful, violent and revolutionary. Why, not a drop of with the lash. Not a Rifle Club has paraded nor a Kuklt prings of the Androscoggin. All is pence. Law and order prevail. The Courts are in session. Justice is administered without let or hindrance. There is no volution there-there cannot be. There is not even bloody shirt" to wave. But the will of the people has been thwarted; the power of the majority suppress and deficit the sovereignty of the people subverted! Well, suppose it has what then! Hamp tou and Nocho's and Canlmers and Botterand a host of others, "all honorable men"-rode into place and power over bleeding and butchered nd buildozed majorities, and the North was as stent as Not only local recognition, but individual devotedness

v the news from Maine." Why should they be? The jevernor of Maine is only dorng, in a much mor-Nichols and Hampton were invited to do, and applicaded for doing. What others did with a bungling al barbarous show of ferce, he has accomplished advantage of belonging to a lofty Southern family, and ibited even more courage when he tooked into the face of the sturdy and entiratened Maine Republicans, and ns, as Hampton is ahead of a "nigger" who only inche mobiled its leaders and degraded these who fought against it. Witness the two score of Confederate generals it. Witness the unblodered success of forcible State-stealing, bloody and marderous revolution at the South since the war, and then give me a reason, if you can, why a party which has acquired control of a solid South by highway robbers, as it were, and been alphanded and petted for it, should not adout the same policy in the Nerth. The Republicans of Maino and the people of the United States are only beginning to reap now the harvest of whirlwind which comes from the wind which they sowed when the Nation had beind quibbles and suberfuges, while bloody treason flourished over us," in the South. The Republicans of the South regret the trouble in Maine, and deplore the results likely to ensue their from; but they are not entirely inconsolable, since they believe that a drop from the chalice so coolly commended to their own lips may prove a proper corrective to the minds and hearts of their Northern beturen.

Southern Refullican, otherwise "One of the Fools."

A MAINE CITIZEN FEELS THE DISGRACE

To the Editor of The Tribune Sir: Among your many criticisms relating to the Mame Canvassing Board you inquire how the Maine people like it. As an individual citizen of the State, I feel a little chagrin at the exposure of so mucl orruption, but am glad of its exposure since it exists some degree, do injustice to the Democratic party as a whole. For undoubtedly, there are intelligent, high minded men connected with that party organization who have not put themselves forward in the recent has been no principle entertained or policy put forward areasonable searches and seizures"). It it difficult to by the Republican party to which they could honorably take exception. By the accidental creation of the Green back fallacy unscrupulous men have succeeded in worming themselves into places of henor in the State. The indications are that a great amount of odium will attact to the State as a consequence of their extraordinary proceeding. Instead of being worthy of the honorable position they occupy they have impressed upon the people the query whether such a low grade of political tricksters as people are now inclined to regard them) might not be better engaged in following up country fairs and seeking opportunities to make a deling by swapping spaymord horses. I think the people of the state have pity for his Excellence, and regret that he has got into bad company. Judging from als reputed antecedents we are surprised that he should have thought of sending to Bangor for guns or of summoning the militate to his aid. It would have been more like him to keep to the rear and consider the cause as lost.

Brunswick, Me., Jan. 6, 1890. A Crizen.

A DENIAL FROM THE OMAHA AGENCY.

to the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: THE TRIBUNE of a recent date printed an article signed H. H., bearing on the bad management of Indian affairs, and in referring to the Omahas made some statements entirely at variance with the truth.

One was that they were forced to sell their wheat for 40 cents when it was worth 90 cents; another that they were not allowed to go off of the reservations to sell their wheat or produce. Now the truth is that no such restraint is imposed on the Omahas and has not been since they had wheat or produce to sell. I know post tively that Agent Vare encouraged them, when he thought the trader was not paying them enough, t take their wheat to Sioux City or Tchamah and sell it for eash. The trader mostly gave the Indians all their wheat was worth at either of those markets, less th wheat was worth at either or those markers, less a cost of hauling, which was 10 cents per bushel. Whe the trader paid 40 cents here in 1878 the same qual-of wheat was only worth 47 to 50 cents at either of the railroad stations, and about 65 cents in Chicago. The has been an effort this Fall by a certain person or pe hank him or them for it. We believe it is done for eiffsh reasons. I belong to the tribe, have served as laided States Interpreter and think I know much mere shout the management and their privileges than any of heir Agent's enemies. I suppose I could get 150 to 200 indians to indorse what I have written. Omaha Agency, Jan. 1, 1850. Chas. P. Morgan.

PROFANITY IN LITERATURE.

To the Editor of The Iribune. SIR: I have just been reading " Vanity Fair." It is in all the public libraries, and every one is exacters of that werid-renowned place. We are frequently reminded of the elegant style in which "Vanity Fair is written. Now it was the reading of "Vanity Pair" and of some of the letters of Charles Dickens that set me thinking on the subject of profaulty in literature.

And I wish meekly to inquire if the style of Thuckeray or Dickens would not be quite as elegant without any profanity ! Does profanity add either to the elegane of the etyle or to the purity of the diction ? Does its frequent recurrence render the reading softer, smoother or more harmonious to the earf I suppose it will be or more harmonious to the ear! I suppose it will be claimed that in order for Thackeray to be "true to nature "he must not only inform us that the characters in "Vanity Fair" smoke and drink and fight duels, but he must also frequently fill their mouths with oaths. This must result in evil to many readers, because the characters of this author are made to swear in such a clever, jolly way, that profanity (viewed from the standpoint of "Vanity Fair") appears like one of the fine aris. "Vanity Fair" is written, and cannot be recalled. But it may be that some young man who contemplates the career of a novelist may chance to read this. If so, I would say to him, while you may bring characters into your works which are reckless and profane, you should sharply rebuke their profanity instead of shocking your good readers with the use of immoral language.

Bath, Jan. 8, 1880.

S. Alden Brace.

THE PROBLEM OF WISE CHARITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: It is not long since some one wrote, "We are done to death with institutions." Your cor-respondent, "Observer," writing December 27, was just too early to learn that Howard was not the deserving person he was supposed to be. It is probably imposs ble in a city like this, which is overrun with imported professional beggars, to meet every case at once, for

the really needy and deserving. There are those who e needy enough, but they quite prefer to beg rather than to work-like the man who said it was working between meals" that he disliked. Besides the various societies for relieving special classes of poor, the "Association for Improving the Condition of Poer" was organized many years ago to meet such a want as that to which "Observer" refers. The association still exists, but less is said of it than tormer'y though it may be because it is working quietly and makes no noise; enough is given to help all who really are in need, if it were only wisely given, and what we need is, not more organizations, but more conscience on the part of givers, that they may not encourage pauperism and decel. Some of us who have watehed the course of events have found an abundant increase of the incapables—not the lowest class, but those who are decently r-speciable, yet helpless. They apply for positions in the schools, but teaching is overdone. They do not know much class, nor how to work and sew and make the best of things (I refer to women), and so they drift and then sink. They try to sell hooks, or do anything but work, and they differ from the man in the Scripture, "I e-amot dig, to beg I am (not) is hamed." Some day we shall learn the value of work. At present we are trying to live by our wits, and some of us have poor wits. though it may be because it is working quietly an New York, Jan. 7, 1880.

TO PREVENT PREMATURE BURIAL.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: The subject of ante-mortem interments calls for scientific investigation, in order to set at rest a matter of vital importance to the whole world. It is estimated that nearly ninety-eight thousand persons di every day. Is life extinct in all that vast number before they are consigned to the grave! The question at ouce arises, are there facts to show that cases of prematur-bur'al do actually take place! Aside from positive evi dence, which I hold is not altogether wanting, there is a great array of circumstantial evidence, which in many cases is deemed as good as positive. Is there not incontestable proof, coming through the press, that person in various parts of the country are, at the last moment. rescued from a living grave by some one's discovery of signs of life !

Let any Board of Health call for facts in such cases, and it will be overwheleed with the great accumulation of well-authenticated facts.

not been thought necessary to tak I have one other reply of like import. There seems

to be a general aversion to any agitation of the surely medical boards or the press. It is ewing, whomat, to the dea that it is uncaded for, and the cellure of the community had bester not be disturb Washington, D. C., Jan. 6, 1880.

ON "A PUZZLE IN THE VALUE OF COINS." To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sm: Your article in yesterday's paper, "A Puzzle in the Value of Coins," is an api illustration of the impossibility of maintaining a double standard of value. The Director of the Mint is required by law to estimate the values of foreign coins, the same to be proclaimed on the 1st day of January annually by the Secretary of the Treasury. In the case of foreign gold coins there is no difficulty, because the gold dollar of 25.8 grains gold, 900-thousandths fine, is the unchanging standard of comparison.

comparison.

In the case of silver we have three possible standards—
a traic dollar of 420 grains, a legal dodar of 412½ grains
and a dollar in subsidiary coins of 385810 grains. But
even if we adopt the dollar of 412½ grains as a standard
it would be impossible for the Director of the Mint to give
to foreign aliver coins anything more than a fluctuating
value, because the standard itself with which comparicontinuous to made is fluctuating, its gold value depending on is made is fluctuating, its gold value depen

son is made is fluctuating, its gold value depending upon the daily quotations of the price in gold of bar siver in the Lendon market.

With all respect for the intelligent Director of the Minf, I think he has made "confusion worse continueded" by using the roid dollar as his standard in estimating the value of foreign sliver coins. Such an estimation, however accurate at the time it is made, is liable to be in error on every other day of the year. The sliver dollar of 412½ grains is well known in the commercial world, and is the proper standard with which to compare foreign sliver coins. The Director's report should give the values of these coins in a column distinctly headed (Values of Foreign Sliver Coins, stated in terms of the United States sliver dollar of 412½ grains, 26,7295 grains. Then the gold value of any particular coin could be readily computed by reference to the gold value of the United States sliver dollar at the time. The practice of THE TRIBUXE of reporting this value daily is most commentable and should be followed by the principal papers of the country. It is only by a knowl-

SHERIFF BOWE'S REFORMS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIE: I see by Saturday's TRIBUNE that Sheriff Bowe proposes to make what he is pleased to term "a number of reforms in the Sheriff's office." Why, sir, for many years back it has been the custom of the Sheriff's office to appoint special deputies only or the recommendation of responsible and well-known citi-zens. Fray, where is the premised reform in this! Then a statement is made that the Sheriff has appointed only kaif as many deputies as his predecessor. published list of deputies, which appeared in The Tree-UNE some time since, it was stated that he pointed sixteen deputies; since that thre it is know that he has added three more, making nineteen in all Sheriff Reilly was not cursed with thirty-eight deputies; so that is misstatement No. 2. He states that the at-tendants in Ludlow Street Jail will be uniformed; this tendants in Ludlow Street Jail will be uniformed; this, certainly, is a great reform. But then the Sheriff more than counterbalances it when he states (and this really is the milk in the coconaut) that "he camout tell yet whether it is possible to comply strictly with the requirements of the law as to fees." If the Sheriff will carefully peruse the Statites of the State, he will find, if he does not "comply strictly with the requirements of the law as to fees," that he will be linds (4) to a suit for a return of all in excess of the legal tees, and for treble damages; (2) to an indictment for miscussince or malversation in effice; (3) to charges preferred against him (see Knex & MacLean arainst Reilly); (4) to removal from effice. I would ask, where in the statutes of the State will this premising Sheriff find any power or anthority, real or implied, for that august body, the Ber Association, or their representatives, Knox & MacLean, to make a new schedule of fees for the Sheriff's office!

New York, Jan. 6, 1880.

THE CARE OF THE PUBLIC PARKS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: Not many weeks ago reference was made in THE TRIBUNE to a proposed society of influential citizens of Boston and its vicinity, having for its object, in part, the safety and proper care of the public grounds in and about that city. In this connection good suggestion was made-that New-York and Brooklyn ought to move in the same direction. Since reading the article referred to I have looked in vain in the columns of THE TEIBUNE for some response to this timely suggestion. Have we no public-spirited citizens sufficiently alive to realize the dangers which menace the people p casure-grounds? New-Yorkers have long been propleasure-grounds I New-Yorkers have long been proud of their Central Park, and Brooklynites of Prospect Park. Both chies pay large sums of money for the mintenance of these grounds. Does any one, outside of the officials who manage the disbursements of these funds, know or try to secretain how they are applied I The public has been repeatedly warned concerning the sad neclect, among other things, of the trees and shrubbery. The puntings on Prospect Park are of comparatively recent date. Very little has since been done to develop the intended effects. A few more years of mismanagement will leave for Brooklyn a waste of tangles thickets, instead of the landscape pictures originally designed. There ought to be more men in Brooklyn willing to give their influence and a little time to create a public sentiment in favor of honest, faithful and practical use of Park appropriations, so that officials would not dare to put those interests in jeopardy by stupid neglect. B. Brooklyn, Jan. 7, 1880.

A CLERGYMAN ON THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE To the Editor of The Iribune.

SIR: Make no more apologies for issuing a Sunday paper when it contains articles similar to the one in yesterday's issue entitled "Come up Higher." A more powerful attnulant to a life of true nobility never appeared in a religious paper. A multitude of persons who never see a religious paper are ennobled perhaps saved by it. And as regards secular topics, religious papers are full of them.

A CLERGYMAN.

New-York, Jan. 5, 1880.

It hadn't occurred to us that we were "apolo gizing" for it. We have never disguised our desire to avoid the publication if possible ;-but finding our readers demand it, we are trying to make it " the best." It will please them to know that financially often the most needy would rather starve than beg. As and in circulation it has been a co street beggars, there is very little danger of refusing from the very first number.—Ed.] and in circulation it has been a brilliant success

A FORGOTTEN BOOK.

DR. NOAH WEBSTER'S EMENDED BIBLE. THE GREAT LEXICOGRAPHER'S ALMOST FORGOTTEN EDITION OF THE SCHIPTURES-HIS OWN OPINION

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: At a recent business meeting of Piymouth Church, Mr. Beecher stated that the American Bible Society returned in 1857 to a confessedly inaccurate version of the Bible, after publishing for seven years a revised version in which thousands of errors had been corrected by a committee appointed for that purpose, by the society, including Dr. Edward Robinson, the Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Vermilye, the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs and other eminent clergymen and scholars. Probably few of your readers ever knew or now remember that in 1833 there was copyrighted an 8vo edition of "The Holy Bible in the Common Version, with Amendments of the Language, by Noah Webster, LL.D.," and published by Durrie & Peck, New-Haven. In 1839 an 8vo edition of the New Testament was published by S. Babcock, New-Haven; and in 1841 a pocket edition of the Bible in pearl type was "published by N. Webster." The edition of the New Testament was lettered on the back "Webster's Testa-

Dr. Webster's reasons for undertaking the work are given in the preface to the edition of 1833, dated New-Haven, September, 1833.

dated New-Haven, September, 1833.

* In the present version, the language is, in general, correct and perspicuous; the genuine popular English of saxon oligin, peculiarly adapted to the subjects; and in many passages uniting sublimity with teamini simplicity. In my view, the general style of the version ought not to be aftered. But in tae lapse of two or taree centuries changes have taken place, which in particular passages, impair the beauty; in others, oscille the series of the original languages. Some words have fallen into disuse; and the signification of others, in current popular use, is not the same now as it was when they were introduced into the version. The effect of these charges is, that some words are not understood by common readers who have no access to commentative, and who will always compose a great proportion of readers walle other words, being now used in a sense offerent from that which they had when the translation was made, present a wrong signification or false ideas, which were words are understood by a sense of the form that which they had when introduced, and different from that of the original languages, they do not present to the reader the Word of God. This creamstance is very insortant, even in things but the very infusious.

In my own view of this subject, a version of the Scriptime of the contract and in essential points, mistakes may be very injurious.

own view of this subject, a version of the Scrip-

In performing this task, I have been careful to avoid numeressary innovations, and to retain the general

comprised in three classes;

First, The substitution of words and parases now in good use for such as are would obsolete, or deemed below the dignity and solemnity of the subject.

Second, The correction of errors in grammar,

Tidrd, The insertion of euphemisms, words and phrases which are not very off-maive to delecacy. In the place of such as camo, with propriety be uitered before a promisenous audience.

place of such as cannot, with propriety be uttered before a promisement studience.

In this undertaking, I subject myssif to the charge of arrogance; but I am not conscious of being actuated by any improper metric. I am aware of the sensitiveness of the criticious public on this subject, and of the difficulties which attend the performance. But all men waom I have excessibled, if they have thought much on the subject, seem to be agreed in the opinion that it is high time to have a revision of the common version of the Sgriptures; although no person appears to know how or by whom such revision is to be executed. In my own view, since revision is not merely a marter of expedience, but of moral dury, and as I have been encouraged to undertake this work by respectable literary and religious coaracters, I have ventured to arrempt a revision upon my own responsibility. If the work should fail to be well preceived tae less will be my own, and I hose no injury will be done. I have been paintuity solicitons that no error should escape me. The reasons for the principal alterations introduced will be found in the explanatory notes.

That the revised edition was approved of by some of the scholars of that day is shown by a testimonial which states:

Dr. Webster's e lition of the Bible, in which the lan-

Another testimonial says: We use Dr. Webster's edition of the Bible in our famies, and can cheerfully recommend it to others [Signed] The Rev. Nathanies W. Taylor, the Rev. unama A. Merrill, the Rev. Leonard Bacon, the Rev. Villiam C. Fowier.

Still another:

Still another:

The subscribers have, for some months past, used Dr. Webster's edition of the Bible in our families, and we can sincerely say that we are well pleased with his semendations of the language. This work is not a new translation, but the common version with improvements of the language without an alteration of the sense except in three or four passages, in which mistakes had been introduced by eversicht or misprinities. The editor mas, by a chance of words, illustrated many passages which, in the common copies, are obscure or unintellistible to ordinary readers, and altered some words and nassages, which cannot be uttered before an antience without giving effence, especially to females; which words and phrases subject the Seriest tures to the scoffs of inhides. The more we read this amended copy, the better we like it; and we cheerfully commend it to the use of others; believing that an examination of the work will remove objections to the amendments, and be the means of promoting religion, by extending the use of the Bible in schools.

[Signed.] Rev. E. L. Griswold, of Methodist connection. Rev. S. Davton, of the Methodist connection. Rev. S. Davton, of the Methodist connection. H. Smath, beacon Free Church, New-Haven. Rev. S. Davton, of the Methodist connection. H. Smath, beacon Free Church, New-Haven. New-Haven. Rev. Haven. Rev. Have Still another:

But that the edition was frowned upon b : others appears by the following letter from Dr. Webster to Messrs, Sidney E. Morse & Co., then publishing The Wen-York Observer, which letter, enriously enough, seems to indicate that, in his opinion, his work upon the Bible, now almost forgotten, was more important than his dictionary:

NEW-YORK, Feb. 24, 1834

Messre. Monse:

Inclosed is a three-dollar banknote, which will pay you for a year's Observer and the postage of this letter. Inclosed, also, is a copy of my address on the Batle, and a notice of my edition on a leaf of the "Mil. lutelligence." I request you to publish the address first, and the notice in the following paper. I suppose by your not publishing the address before, as you encouraged Mr. White to believe you would, that you are not friendly to tay design. But I consider this emendation of the common version as the most important enterprise of my ife, and as important as any benevolent design now on foot, and I feel much hurt that my friends should discountenance the design. Accept the regards of, gentlemen, your obedient servant.

Dr. Webster's extimate of his Rible was markedly.

Dr. Webster's estimate of his Bible was markedly shown by his will dated in 1839, wherein he b queathed to each of his grandchildren a copy of the book "handsomely bound," the only one of hi many publications which he thus honored. His later estimate of his work is shown in the following letter, written only one year before his death, when in the eighty-fourth year of his age:

New-Haven, May 19, 1842. To the Members of the Eastern Association in New-Haven

To the Members of the Eastern Association in New Haven County:
GENTLEMEN: My edition of the Bible with emendations of the language of the common version has been before the public about eight years. I have heard no objection to the manner in which the work has been executed, and as far as my information extends, the work is generally approved by those who have examined it, among whom are many elergymen, whose special duty it is to guard the sacred text from corruption. The body of the language in the common version was introduced by Tyndale more than 320 years ago. In the great length of time that has sluce chapsed, the language has suffered many material changes, some of which affect the sense of passages, rendering it obscure or unintelligible to the unlettered part of readers. Some passages are expressed in language which decency forbids to be repeated in families and the puipit. For these reasons it appears to me that a due regard to the interest of religion requires a revision of the common version. Indeed, all men seem to agree that amendments are wanted, but who shall underface the work to so numerous are the denominations of Christians that no one would undertake it without the concurrence of the others, unless for sectarian parposes, and there is no probability that a concurrence of all could be obtained.

For these reasons it seems to be obvious, that if any improvement is to be made in the version, the work

For these reasons it seems to be obvious, that if any improvement is to be made in the version, the work

For these reasons it seems to be buvious, the work improvement is to be made in the version, the work must be done by an individual.

It is my desire that the association shall take into consideration the propriety of rendering me their active add to prompting the use of the amended copy of the Bible in families and schools. I am, gentlemen, with Euch respect, your obedient servant, N. Webster.

I close this letter as I began it with the opinion that this chapter of biblical history has been generally forgatten.

G. L. F. aliy forgotten. Brooklyn, Jan. 8, 1880.

LIABILITY OF AN EXPRESS COMPANY.

BATH, N. Y., Jan. 9 .- On December 1, 1876. the United States Express Company received from the Bank of North America in New-York City a money package containing \$5,000, which it undertook to deliver to the First National Bank of Bath. The package reached nere the next day, and on being opened was found to contain nothing but waste paper. The bank sued the express company for the money, and the trial, just concluded, resulted in a verdict in favor of the bank for the full amount and interest.